

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends the specification, drawings, and claims 1, 9, and 11 to correct informalities. No new matter has been added to the specification or drawings. Further, the amendments to the claims have no bearing on patentability as they deal with correcting grammar or format, not subject matter.

The Office Action objects to Figs. 1(a)-1(c) and 4(a)-4(c) for failing to label both axes of the graphs. By this Amendment, Applicant amends Figs. 1(a)-1(c) and 4(a)-4(c) to indicate that the horizontal axes represent relative position along the CIS in the array direction of the light receiving elements. Applicant submits that the value represented by the horizontal axes is inherent in the original disclosure as, for example, a location or position of a stained area of the white board is reflected as occurring across a portion of the horizontal axes (page 3, line 17 - page 4, line 6; page 7, line 6 - page 8, line 1; page 11, lines 15-21; page 15, lines 10-20; Figs. 1(b) and 4(b)). Thus, the horizontal axes in Figs. 1(a)-1(c) and 4(a)-4(c) must represent position or location. Accordingly, Applicant also amends Figs. 1(a)-1(c) and 4(a)-4(c) to indicate that the vertical axes are measured in voltage, as correctly pointed out by the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

The Office Action objects to the specification and claim 9 for a number of informalities. By this Amendment, Applicant amends the specification and claim 9 to correct the informalities. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 10, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,796,865 to Aoyama et al. (hereinafter "Aoyama"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Aoyama does not disclose, teach, or suggest "a correction coefficient calculator which provides part of the present image signal curve being matched with a part of the reference signal curve to produce a corrected image signal level curve," as recited in claim 1 or "providing part of the present image signal curve being matched with a part of the reference signal curve to produce a corrected image signal level curve," as recited in claim 10.

The Office Action alleges that the weighting and addition means 5 disclosed in Aoyama is equivalent to Applicant's claimed correction coefficient calculator. The Office Action further alleges that the fundamental gradation curve K1 disclosed in Aoyama is equivalent to Applicant's claimed reference signal curve. However, the weighting and addition means weights the rotated fundamental gradation curve K4 and the enlarged or reduced fundamental gradation curve K2 to create a desired fundamental gradation curve K5 (col. 10, lines 30-54). The curves K2, K4 are weighted such that a maximum density, minimum density, and desired density may be obtained and such that portions of the desired gradation curve K5 may come into contact with those curves K2, K4 (col. 10, line 30 - col. 11, line 12).

However, Aoyama does not disclose that the desired fundamental gradation curve K5 comes into contact with any part of the original fundamental gradation curve K1 (alleged by the Office Action to be equivalent to Applicant's claimed reference signal curve). In fact, Aoyama specifically teaches away from such a situation. If the desired fundamental gradation curve K5 was matched directly with the original fundamental gradation curve K1 it would not be possible to obtain the a maximum density, minimum density, and desired density. Thus, Aoyama cannot reasonably be considered to disclose, teach, or suggest a correction coefficient calculator (weighting and addition means 5) which provides part of the present image signal curve being matched with a part of the reference signal curve (K1) to produce a corrected image signal level curve (K5), as recited in claim 1.

Applicant notes that this feature of the disclosed invention is particularly beneficial because it prevents excessive adjustment of the image signal level (page 4, line 17 - page 4, line 25; Figs. 1(a)-1(c)).

Because Aoyama does not disclose, teach, or suggest "a correction coefficient calculator which provides part of the present image signal curve being matched with a part of the reference signal curve to produce a corrected image signal level curve," as recited in claim 1, claim 1 is patentable over Aoyama. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that same argument applies to claim 10 and claim 13, depending from claim 10. Thus, claims 1, 10 and 13 are patentable over Aoyama. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 2-8 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Aoyama in view of U.S. Patent 5,652,412 to Lazzouni et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

This rejection is premised upon the assumption that Aoyama discloses "a correction coefficient calculator which provides part of the present image signal curve being matched with a part of the reference signal curve to produce a corrected image signal level curve," as recited in claims 1 and 5 or "providing part of the present image signal curve being matched with a part of the reference signal curve to produce a corrected image signal level curve," as recited in claim 10.

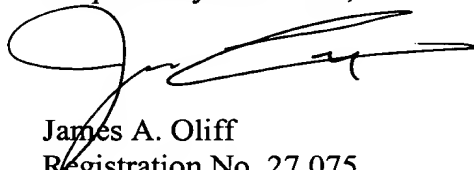
Because, as discussed above, Aoyama does not disclose "a correction coefficient calculator which provides part of the present image signal curve being matched with a part of the reference signal curve to produce a corrected image signal level curve," as recited in claims 1 and 5 or "providing part of the present image signal curve being matched with a part of the reference signal curve to produce a corrected image signal level curve," as recited in

claim 10, the rejection is moot. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicant earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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